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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

A SKETCH of the POLITICAL STATE of AMERICA.

NUMBER V.

BUT once more alarmed by a ſenſe of common danger, the citizens of America were led, in ſpite of a ſuppoſed competition of intereſts, ſeriouſly to reflect on thoſe cauſes, which had reduced their country to ſuch an unfortunate ſituation, and to ſeek a remedy for thoſe evils, which were daily increaſing upon her—the neceſſity of a due commercial ſyſtem throughout the United States, appeared to be the prevailing ſentiment, both as intimately connected with raiſing a revenue for the ſupport of government, as to give a ſpring to Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce: To effect this purpoſe, a ſpecial deputation from the ſeveral States, convened at Annapolis in Sept. 1786; but upon a mature inveſtigation of their powers, they were found to be altogether inadequate, to either the expreſs or implied object of their miſſion—and it was by them wiſely judged, that a radical cure, rather than a partial remedy, was neceſſary to the future happineſs and proſperity of their country, and in order to effect this laudable plan, they recommended a General Convention from the States, at ſome future period, who, while they were deeply impreſſed with cauſes of our national diſeaſe, ſhould be inſtructed to provide an efficacious remedy. Their recommendations were readily complied with, as proceeding from the beſt of motives, and the reaſon of them was already anticipated by the conviction, in every perſons mind, of their neceſſity—and a Convocation of the firſt Worthies and Patriots of America, was held in May, 1787, at Philadelphia—directed to make ſuch additions to the ſyſtem of Confederation, as were neceſſary to relieve America from thoſe embarraſsments, which had reſulted from a weak and inefficient form of government; but upon a candid diſcuſſion of the whole plan of their buſineſs, and what was expected from the reſult of their deliberations, it was thought to be dangerous to the future liberties of their country, to veſt thoſe powers which ought to be veſted in all governments, to anſwer the end of their inſtitution, to one, conſtituted as the exiſting Confederation—Congreſs being but a diplomatic body, and not under thoſe checks and reſtraints, which might be made to ariſe from a plan differently conſtructed; and although a delicacy of ſentiment, ariſing from a fear of exceeding the limits of their commiſſion, produced ſome objections to a radical alteration of the confederated ſyſtem, yet as the ſalvation of their country was thought to depend upon it—they determined to recur to firſt principles, and preſent, for the approbation of their fellow-citizens, ſuch a plan of future government as would anſwer the great objects of ſociety; and a ſpirit of mutual conceſſion and compromiſe for the general good prevailing, they happily united in a ſyſtem, which does honor to their hearts as men, and their heads as politicians; nor till gratitude has loſt a place in the boſoms of Americans, can their exertions, to ſave a decaying land, be forgotten. In this Syſtem we find the energy of a good government united with the freedom of the people, and containing certain great characteriſtics peculiar to itſelf, and which preſage much future happineſs to the ſubjects of its controul—thoſe great traits, as alſo the important objects, which muſt be involved in its adminiſtration, will form the ſubject of my future numbers.

AMERICANUS.

(To be continued.)

EXTRACT FROM "AMERICAN ESSAYS."

The IMPORTANCE *of the* PROTESTANT RELIGION *politically conſidered.*

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.

THE Religion which the citizens of America in general profeſs, is that, for the ſake of which our virtuous Fore-Fathers reſigned all the honors, the pleaſures, the comforts, and almoſt all the neceſſaries of life, which many of them enjoyed in abundance in the old world; and traverſed the vaſt and perilous atlantic, to tranſplant themſelves and families in this then rude, uncultivated wilderneſs, ſwarming with ſavage beaſts, and far more ſavage men—It is therefore that Religion which laid the foundation of this new and great Empire: It is the Religion of all others the moſt favourable to Induſtry, Commerce, the Arts, Science, Freedom, and conſequent temporal Happineſs of Mankind: It is the profeſſed religion of the greateſt, wiſeſt, and beſt men this world has produced; and it is the Religion of which we acknowledge GOD to be the author. Theſe will ſurely be admitted as powerful claims to our particular reverence and reſpect: To this Religion *Britain* is principally indebted for that happy reformation, and ſubſequent glorious revolution, which were the harbingers of her preſent diſtinguiſhed greatneſs: To this Religion, and its worthy profeſſors, it muſt be acknowledged, much is due, in bringing about the late glorious American Revolution: Inſpired by this Religion, our truly patriotic Clergy, boldly and zealouſly ſtepped forth, and bravely ſtood our diſtinguiſhed Sentinels to watch, and warn us againſt approaching danger: They wiſely ſaw that our religious and civil liberties were inſeparably connected; and therefore warmly excited and animated the people, reſolutely to oppoſe and repel every hoſtile invader: Theſe are ſome of the temporal bleſſings flowing from our Religion; and yet many of thoſe pious Chriſtians, to whom, *under God*, we owe much of that fortitude, zeal, perſeverance, and inſpiration, which carried the American Soldiery through difficulties and dangers, apparently inſurmountable, may at this day be ranked among the moſt needy and dependent men in the community: This is an evil greatly to be deplored; and urgently demands every poſſible public and private exertion, for the ſake of thoſe who have thus generouſly embraced a life of certain indigence, for the cauſe of religion and mankind—for the ſake of their widows and offſpring, who are often left in the moſt diſtreſſed circumſtances, and for the honor and ſecurity of that Religion, to which we are largely indebted for this happy country. The generality of mankind, are more or leſs influenced and attracted by the power and ſplendor of riches; and there are too many of all ranks in every community, who annex an idea of contempt to the appearance of poverty: This is too evident to be controverted: If therefore poverty is often treated with contempt, and always with neglect, what may we not fear for that Religion, of which, in this country, poverty is a diſtinguiſhing badge! The maſs of mankind are ever captivated by external appearances and ſhew—barren minds receive no light from within, and therefore cannot ſo eaſily be informed and convinced, of the intrinſic worth of true Religion, as they may be caught and inſnared by the tinſel and trappings of any other; it is therefore worthy of conſideration, what may be the probable effects of the introduction of other religions, and how far their effects, if in any view dangerous, may be counteracted, conſiſtent with the juſt and generous principles of Toleration.

The ignorant and illiterate, conſtitute a large majority in all communities—theſe are awed, their exceſſes controled, and their opinions biaſſed, more from the exertions of religion, and the viſible reſpect paid to it by thoſe, whom they deem their ſuperiors, than from its immediate, ſenſible influence on their own minds: It is therefore well worthy the attention of thoſe who aſſent to the importance of the PROTESTANT RELIGION *politically conſidered*, and who conceive that it has had any ſhare in producing the temporal bleſſings we now enjoy, to honor it with every poſſible diſtinguiſhing mark of pre-eminence and reſpect, not repugnant to the true ſpirit of Toleration; and liberally to aid our religious Fathers, in the glorious work of ſupporting this IMPORTANT BULWARK OF OUR CONSTITUTION; and in the commemoration of thoſe great events, conducive to the revolution and independence of America; may the virtue, zeal, and patriotiſm of our Clergy, be ever particularly remembered; for it is a truth, as ſacred as the idea is ſerious and alarming, that as our Proteſtant Clergy ſhall ſink into contempt or neglect, however undeſerved, the learned will decline the profeſſion; and then adieu to Religion, Morality, and Liberty; and while in conformity to the benevolent precepts of true religion, as well as the liberal principles of our Conſtitution, Americans hold out religious liberty to all the various ſects, who may be diſpoſed to become our fellow-citizens, let us not be wanting in that attention and reſpect, due to the Religion we profeſs, leſt it ſhould be ſuſpected, that our tolerant ſpirit, proceeded more from a total indifference to all religion, than from that liberality of ſentiment and god-like Charity, which true religion inculcates and inſpires, and which it is hoped will never be diſlodged from the generous and benevolent breaſts of AMERICANS.

E. C.

"BALTIMORE, ARRIL 21, 1789,

Extract of a letter from George-Town, to a gentleman in this town, dated April 17, 1789.

"Yeſterday paſſed through this town, on his way to New-York, his Excellency GENERAL WASHINGTON, accompanied by the Hon. Charles Thompſon, Eſq. ſecretary to Congreſs.—The former of theſe perſonages, goes to fill the ſeat of Preſident of the United States of America—the laſt diſtinction, which a grateful people can beſtow, or a life ſpent with unexampled honor and applauſe, can deſerve.

"To this illuſtrious appointment, he was unanimouſly called by the voice of his country.—The annals of hiſtory, furniſhing nothing ſo ſingular in its nature, or ſo eminently glorious. Heroes and legiſlators may have enjoyed the confidence of a *majority* of their countrymen; but none but WASHINGTON ever *unanimouſly* pleaſed as the former, or was *unanimouſly* choſen for the latter.—Whilſt this very ſingular event diſplays to the aſtoniſhed world, an empire of diſſimilar climes, products and intereſts, liſtening to the ſimple and enlightened voice of reaſon; it on the other hand exhibits to mankind, a character in its nature ſo very perfect, that for its improvement, nothing can be added.

"From Alexandria to George-Town, he was attended by a voluntary company of private gentlemen—neighbours, friends and children of the *man*, who had ſaved *their* country and them.—Impelled by gratitude alone, and not moving, ſervile, at the injunction of command, they choſe this method to manifeſt their affection for him, without whom, freedom had been nothing but a name. An attendant corps, collected together by *ſuch* motives, does more honor to a man, than all the triumphs which Rome ever beheld; and the perſon *ſo* honored, is more illuſtrious, than any monarch on the globe.

"The gentlemen of George-Town, emulous to diſplay their patriotiſm, and to evince their attachment for the firſt character in America, reſpectfully received him at the banks of the Patowmack, and ſet out to eſcort him, until they ſhould meet the gentlemen from Baltimore.

"May this virtuous and truly great man, thus in ſafety be conducted to the place of his deſtination; and may Heaven, auſpicious to his declining years, kindly ſmoothe over the thorns of legiſlation—avert from his adminiſtration the tumults of popular diſcord—and cauſe the ſame Sun which hath diffuſed around the meridian of his life ſo much ſplendour, finally to go down on his latter end in peace."

The Preſident of the United States arrived in this place on his way to Congreſs, on Friday afternoon, the 17th inſt. with Charles Thompſon, Eſq. and Col. Humphryes. This great man was met ſome miles from town, by a large body of reſpectable citizens on horſeback, and conducted, under a diſcharge of cannon, to Mr. Grant's tavern, through crowds of admiring ſpectators. At ſix o'clock, a committee choſen in conſequence of a late notification, to adjuſt the preliminaries for his reception, waited upon him with an addreſs, which, with his anſwer, we are happy to be able to give to the public. A great number of the citizens were preſented to him, and very graciouſly received. Having arrived too late for a public dinner, he accepted an invitation to ſupper, from which he retired a little after ten o'clock. The next morning he was in his carriage at half paſt five o'clock, when he left town, under a diſcharge of cannon, and attended as on his entrance, by a body of the citizens on horſeback. Theſe gentlemen accompanied him ſeven miles, when alighting from his carriage, he would not permit them to proceed any further; but took leave of them, after thanking them in an affectionate and obliging manner for their politeneſs. We ſhall only add on this occaſion, that thoſe who had often ſeen him before, and thoſe who never had, were equally anxious to ſee him. Such is the rare impreſſion excited by his uncommon character and virtues.

ADDRESS *to the* PRESIDENT *of the* UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA.

SIR,

WE feel the honor you have this day conferred on the town of Baltimore, by favouring it with your preſence, infinitely heightened and enhanced by the deſirable event which has produced it. Happy to behold your elevation, permit us to re-aſſure you of our pureſt love and affection.

In conſidering the occaſion that has once more drawn you from the ſcenes of domeſtic eaſe and private tranquility, our thoughts naturally turn on the ſituation of our country, previous to the expedient of the late general convention. When you became a member of that body which framed our new and excellent conſtitution, you diſſipated the fears of good men, who dreaded the diſunion of the ſtates, and the loſs of our liberties in the death of our enfeebled and expiring confederation: And now, ſir, by accepting the high authorities of Preſident of the United States of America, you teach us to expect every bleſſing that can reſult from the wiſeſt recommendations to Congreſs, and the moſt prudent and judicious exerciſe of thoſe authorities; thus relieving us in the one inſtance, from the moſt gloomy apprehenſions, as when, in a different capacity, you re-croſſed the Delaware; and in the other, opening to our view the moſt animating proſpects, as when you captured Cornwallis.

But it is from the tenor of your own life, and your uniform and upright political principles and conduct, that we derive the fulleſt aſſurance that our hopes will be realized. Believing that a faithful performance of public engagements is eſſential to the proſperity of a people, and their implicit reliance on the promiſes of government, to its ſtability, we recollect with pleaſure your well known ſentiments on this ſubject, and have no doubt but the other branches of Congreſs will concur with you in placing public credit on the moſt ſolid foundation. We have alſo every reaſon to conclude, that under the adminiſtration of a Waſhington, the uſeful and ingenious arts of peace, the agriculture, commerce, and manufactures of the United States, will be duly favoured and improved, as being far more certain ſources of national wealth than the richeſt mines, and ſurer means to promote the felicity of a people, than the moſt ſucceſsful wars. Thus, ſir, we behold a new era ſpringing out of our independence, and a field diſplayed, where your talents for governing will not be obſcured by the ſplendor of the greateſt military exploits. We behold too, an extraordinary thing in the annals of mankind; a free and enlightened people, chooſing, by a free election, without one diſſenting voice, the late commander in chief of their armies, to watch over and guard their civil rights and privileges.

We ſincerely pray that you may long enjoy your preſent health, and the citizens of the United States have frequent opportunities to teſtify their veneration of your virtues, by continuing you through many ſucceſſive elections in the firſt ſtation of human honor and dignity. In theſe expreſſions of our affections and attachment, we are ſenſible we do not ſpeak the wiſhes of a town only, but the united feelings of a whole people.

In behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, we have the honor to be, &c. &c.

JAMES M'HENRY,	ROBERT SMITH,
NICHOLAS ROGERS,	O. H. WILLIAMS,
JOSHUA BARNEY,	THOROWGOOD SMITH,
PAUL BENTALAU,	WILLIAM CLEMM,
JOHN BANKSON,	JOHN SWAN.
ISAAC GRIEST,	

The ANSWER *by the* PRESIDENT *of the* UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA.

GENTLEMEN,

THE tokens of regard and affection which I have often received from the citizens of this town, were always acceptable, becauſe, I believed them always ſincere.—Be pleaſed to receive my beſt acknowledgments for the renewal of them on the preſent occaſion.

If the affectionate partiality of my fellow citizens has prompted them to aſcribe greater effects to my conduct and character, than were juſtly due, I truſt the indulgent ſentiment on their part, will not produce any preſumption on mine.

I cannot now, gentlemen, reſiſt my feelings ſo much as to withhold the communication of my ideas reſpecting the actual ſituation of our national affairs. It appears to me that little more than common ſenſe and common honeſty in the tranſactions of the com-

unity at large, would be neceſſary to make us a happy nation. or if the general government, lately adopted, ſhall be arranged d adminiſtered in ſuch a manner as to acquire the full confidence the American people, I ſincerely believe they will have greater vantages from their natural, moral and political circumſtances, or public felicity, than any other people ever poſſeſſed.

In the contemplation of thoſe advantages, now ſoon to be realized, I have reconciled myſelf to the ſacrifice of my fondeſt wiſhes, ſo far as to enter again upon the ſtage of public life.—I know the delicate nature of the duties incident to the part which I am called to perform, and I feel my incompetence, without the ſingular aſſiſtance of Providence, to diſcharge them in a ſatisfactory manner.—But having undertaken the taſk, from a ſenſe of duty, no fear of encountering difficulties, and no dread of loſing popularity, ſhall ever deter me from purſuing what I conceive to be the true intereſts of my country.

Mr. FENNO,

As the ſubject of the following Obſervations is undoubtedly of great importance, you will oblige your readers by a re-publication of them: The performance is taken from that very valuable Miſcellany, the *American Muſeum*, publiſhed by Mr. CAREY, at Philadelphia. C. Z.

An ESSAY, *on the* APPOINTMENT *of* PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Humbly ſubmitted to all perſons concerned in electing or appointing them.

THE perfection of government requires that every public office, in all the legiſlative, judicial, and executive departments, ſhould be filled with the moſt ſuitable and fit perſons.

Good government manifeſtly depends much more on the goodneſs of the men who fill the public offices, than on the goodneſs of the form of government, conſtitution, or even laws of the ſtate; for the errors of all theſe, under the adminiſtration of good men, will be mended or made tolerable, either by the authority of the legiſlature, or favourble conſtruction; but, weak and wicked men will pervert the beſt of laws to the purpoſes of favour or oppreſſion—And one principal thing which makes one form of government better than another, is, that there is a greater and a more natural chance of the appointment of ſuitable men to public offices in the one than in the other, and this makes the power of appointment, or right of election, a right of the higheſt importance to the community; it therefore requires the greateſt wiſdom in human policy, to veſt this great authority in ſuch perſons, as will moſt probably exerciſe it with the moſt diſcretion and leaſt corruption.

As the appointment of ſuitable men to public offices is of the utmoſt importance to the well being of the ſtate, and conſequently implies a moſt ſacred truſt and duty in the electors; it may not be amiſs to deſignate ſuch outlines of character, as are moſt eſſentially neceſſary in a public officer, and eſpecially when his office is of high rank, and very weighty concern to the community.

1. Integrity ought to hold the firſt place. The *integer vitae ſceleriſque purus* of the poet, is of mighty conſequence in every ſociety. A man of ſtrict honeſty and uprightneſs in his private life and dealings, is eaſily known and diſtinguiſhed among men. Let this be an eſſential part of the character of the man, for whom you give your vote, to ſerve in any public office of truſt and importance.

2. A good reputation, free from ſcandal. A man attainted of ſcandalous crimes, either by conviction on record, or by general opinion of his neighbours, appears with great diſadvantage, in the ſacred ſeats of public councils of law, juſtice, or equity. I have heard of a judge, who was generally ſuppoſed to have corrupted his neighbour's wife, and having once a very impudent offender before him, was ſevere in his cenſures of the offence, and opening the law book, read there the deſcription of the offence and puniſhment: the delinquent ſaid, with a moſt malignant ſneer, he could wiſh his honor would turn over a few pages more, and ſee what the law ſaid to whoremaſters.

3. Religion and ſincere piety. I don't think it of much conſequence of what patricular profeſſion of religion he may be, whether Epiſcopalian, Preſbyterian, Quaker, Lutheran, Calviniſt, Moravian, &c. if he is reputed to be devout, ſincere, and faithful to the religion he does profeſs. But a looſe liver, or an apoſtate in religion, I cannot think fit to be truſted in the ſtate, becauſe a man who is not true to his God, will not probably be ſo to his country; for when the higheſt poſſible obligation cannot bind a man, it is not to be expected that he will be governed by leſſer and more ſubordinate ones: when the grand firſt principle of all true morals is wanting, the practice muſt become too uncertain to be truſted in matters of weight and high moment.

4. Sufficient abilities, adequate to the office that is to be filled. There muſt be a congruity between the buſineſs to be done, and the abilities of the man appointed to do it.

5. Gravity, wiſdom, and ſound judgment. A grave and wiſe man gives weight and dignity to any department in which he is employed, inſpires confidence that the buſineſs under his direction will be well managed, and what is more than this, will really do it well.

6. Deciſion, cloſe attention, and perſeverence. Some men are undecided in their judgment, variable in their attention, act by fits and ſtarts, and often leave their buſineſs half done. It is very dangerous to admit men of this diſpoſition into public offices, where a coincidence of ſundry departments is often neceſſary, and a failure of one will ſometimes put a full ſtop to all the reſt.

7. A great command of his paſſions. A man who is known to be a ſlave to any favourite paſſion, or who is too ſtrongly devoted to gaming, the bottle, or his miſtreſs, is not thought a ſafe perſon to truſt private buſineſs with, eſpecially buſineſs of conſequence, which requires a watchful diligence, diſcretion, and caution; much leſs can ſuch a man be fit for a public truſt.

8. Public offices ſhould be filled with men of ſteady attendance. There is great complaint of tardy or totally deficient attendance, eſpecially in the members of aggregate bodies, ſuch as Congreſs, councils, aſſemblies, &c. by which means the public buſineſs is much and often very injuriouſly retarded.

I hope we do not live in an age ſo degenerate, as to render the above characters difficult to be found. The importance of them muſt be obvious to every perſon concerned in electing or appointing public officers, and I hope will induce them to make ſuch a choice as ſhall ſatisfy the high truſt repoſed in them, and ſuch as ſhall effectually ſecure the honor and ſafety of the ſtate.

Philadelphia. Sept. 1, 1788.

Mr. FENNO,

THE obſervations of TIMOLEON, upon the ſubject of appointments to office, inſerted in your laſt, coincide in general, with the ſentiments of the wiſe and independent part of the community; but his laſt article is rather too ſtrait-laced: I conceive that a man of worth and real abilities, may, with propriety, let his pretenſions be known, without *letting down* his own character, or wounding the feelings, or delicacy of thoſe, whoſe patronage he ſolicits.

I go further, and ſuppoſe that *duty* and *juſtice* to the public, may unite to impel a perſon of the greateſt modeſty, to come forward with a ſtatement of ſervices, from which a competency of knowledge has been acquired, to diſcharge the particular truſt applied for.

But if the idea of *Timoleon* ſhould be adopted, the moſt meritorious characters might reſt in perpetual obſcurity, while their country ſuffered the loſs of their abilities.

Merit, Modeſty, and Diffidence, are nearly allied, and the two laſt have deprived the community of the firſt, two often already—and to add to the number, by throwing additional obſtacles in its way, would be cruel, unjuſt, and impolitic.

While the influence of men in power is ſolicited with ardour, and a perſecutiug perſeverance by thoſe, to whom ignorance gives a brazen front, let us not deprive the Supreme Executive of a counterballance to impertinent importunity, by diſcouraging the applications of worth and abilities.

C.

PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES *of the* UNITED STATES.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1789.

In our laſt we ſtated, that MR. BLAND had introduced the proceedings of the legiſlature of Viginia on the ſubject of Amendments—it may not be unintereſting to ſtate the ſubſtance of the obſervations that occurred upon this buſineſs. On one hand it was obſerved, that the application of the State of Virginia was made with a view of obtaining amendments, agreeably to the 5th article of the Conſtitution: That although the addreſs of Virginia had been tranſmitted to the ſeveral Legiſlatures, but few of them had thought proper to coincide with that State—That it would be giving the addreſs due conſideration, to refer it to a committee of the whole, to be taken up at the time aſſigned for the Houſe to conſider amendments, of which notice had been given yeſterday—That the addreſs was from a reſpectable State, and merited an equal compliment at leaſt, with other applications that had already been referred to the committe—That although this addreſs might ſtand alone, yet it might be of weight in the deciſions of the committee—That it reſted on the baſis of its own merits, and could not in the nature of its operation, if committed, contravene the ſpirit of the Conſtitution—That as it was a ſtanding rule of the Houſe, that they ſhould go into a committee of the whole every day, there appeared to be a propriety in the commitment.

In reply, it was obſerved—That although the application was undoubtedly from the moſt reſpectable quarter, yet it appeared to be more proper, that it ſhould lie on the table for the information of the members—that when a ſufficient number of ſimilar applications ſhould be made, it might conſtitutionally come before Congreſs—That it ought to be treated with due reſpect—but that Congreſs had no deliberative voice, with reſpect to calling a Convention, agreeably to the application—That when two thirds of the States ſhould apply, they were bound to call one—That it would not be paying proper reſpect to Virginia, to commit the application to a body which was not competent to deliberate or decide upon it—That as the Houſe had been led to conſider the fourth Monday of the preſent month as the time aſſigned to go into the conſideration of amendments, then would be a proper ſeaſon to bring forward the application—That it would be paying proper reſpect to it, to enter it on the journals: This was therefore acceded to with the addition, that it ſhould be put upon the files in the Clerk's Office.

The Houſe then reſumed the report of the committee upon the article of tonnage—when

Mr. JACKSON moved, that 30 cents on foreign tonnage ſhould be ſtruck out, and 20 cents ſubſtituted—He enforced his idea, by obſerving, that as the main object to be effected by tonnage, was to raiſe a tax to ſupport light-houſes and other incidental charges of commerce, 20 cents per ton, he conceived, would be ſufficient for the purpoſe.—The gentleman calculated, that upon the tonnage of Georgia only, this duty would be about £ 400. The tonnage propoſed, was too high and would operate unequally and oppreſſively upon ſome parts of the Union, more eſpecially the ſouthern States—That at preſent, when the members of that Houſe were ſcarcely warm in their ſeats, it became them to act with caution and due deliberation—the Conſtitution was in its infancy—it was well known that ſome States were averſe from it—amendments were already applied for, and if we mean to con ciliate the good diſpoſition of States not in the Union, we ſhould move with caution. This tonnage would materially affect the State of North-Carolina—South-Carolina and Georgia were ſituated as North-Carolina, and all infinitely worſe than the northern States—Not only rice and lumber could not be exported, but 5000 hogſheads of tobacco were now lying in ware-houſes for want of ſhipping—Georgia was already borne down by the oppreſſion of foreign impoſitions, and obliged to ſhip her produce under every diſadvantage—in this humiliating ſituation, ſhe looks to this Congreſs for relief—ſhould ſhe be diſappointed, ſhe may be ſorry for the prompt and decided part ſhe has taken in the ſecond revolution: The ſouthern produce is now at a low ebb—the ſpecie is leaving the country, and diſtreſs ſtares us in the face; at this time to encreaſe our burdens and difficulties, by encreaſing the embarraſſments on our produce, our only reſource, will be oppreſſive and diſcouraging.—Mr. Jackſon concluded with ſaying, that he hoped the motion would obtain.

Mr. AMES replied to Mr. JACKSON—he obſerved, that much had been ſaid about prejudices and jealouſies between the different States—but for his part, he conceived, the ſituation of matters was upon a more agreeable footing.—Britain had excited and fomented thoſe ideas—they had their particular views in ſo doing—But it was very apparent, that other ſentiments now predominated through the Union—our intereſts were mutual, and nature had ſo arranged the local circumſtances of the ſouthern and northern States, that commerce and agriculture were the natural purſuits of the two grand diviſions of the Union—our intereſts were compatible—we muſt be united as a nation, and look with an equal eye to the good of the whole—a general idea pervades the Union—it was evident, that a greater and more extenſive coincidence of opinion predominated, than had been conceived of—It was not expected, that the general intereſt would have been ſo univerſally acknowledged—The neceſſity and importance of a navy was now allowed on all hands—to effect this great and eſſential object, meaſures muſt be adopted—and thoſe, the moſt obviouſly within our power, ſhould claim our earlieſt attention—the encouragement of our commerce is undoubtedly among the moſt important articles conducive to this point.—The nurſing of our navigation indiſpenſible—the duty propoſed has this principally in view, and though a ſmall one, it holds up a neceſſary and advantageous diſcrimination between American and foreign veſſels.—The voice of the continent concurs in this ſentiment, and the prevalence of this and ſimilar ideas, produced the preſent revolution, under the auſpices of which we are now deliberating. Our navigation is not on a par with foreigners; encouragement is neceſſary, and every obſervation thrown out by the gentleman from the ſouthward, in oppoſition to the duty, proves this neceſſity. The gentleman has ſaid, that 5000 hogſheads of tobacco are now laying in the ware-houſes at the ſouthward, for want of ſhipping to carry them off: What ſtronger reaſon for encouraging and encreaſing our ſhipping, that proviſion may be made to tranſport our produce to market. And if this is the caſe, are we not at the mercy of our rivals? Our Agriculture calls upon us, to make this proviſion; and according to the gentleman's own account, the duty will not prove in any meaſure ſo burdenſome, as the loſs of 5000 hogſheads of tobacco. The uſeful body of ſhip-carpenters through the States are complaining for want of employ; they are reduced to the neceſſity, of working for ⅔ths of a dollar pr. day, or quit their native homes, and ſeek their bread among the Britiſh, in the northern parts of the continent. Mr. Ames added many other obſervatione, and concluded by giving his negative to the motion.

Mr. BURKE obſerved, That the people of the Southern States entertained friendly diſpoſitions towards their brethren at the Eaſtward: He could ſpeak for the inhabitants of South Carolina at leaſt, that they took pleaſure in their proſperity—that they looked to them for future protection, and wiſhed to ſee their navigation flouriſh: This ſhews, that they are not jealous—but at the ſame time he conceived, that their profeſſions and feelings would not juſtify their ſubmitting in ſilence to the preſent propoſed impoſition on tonnage, which muſt, in its operation, prove extremely unequal and oppreſſive to them: The property of Southern gentlemen, it was well known, conſiſted principally in their produce—this they depended upon, and if they could not get it to market, the conſequences were obvious, they could neither ſubſiſt, nor pay their debts: The operation of this duty will diminiſh the ſhipping, already inſufficient: The deficiency of the Eaſtern ſhipping, is conceded on all hands—ſo that we ſhall be entirely prevented from exporting our produce: We wiſh to employ American ſhips, in preference to all others; but as there cannot be a ſeaſonable ſupply, time muſt be given, that the Southern States may not be oppreſſed, and borne down by the regulations of Congreſs in the article of Tonnage.

Mr. GOODHUE, Mr. MADDISON, and ſome other gentlemen, added ſeveral obſervations in favor of the diſcrimination propoſed, and to the following effect, That a ſpirit of union and tranquility was happily diffuſed through the Union in the preſent inſtance—the ſentiment was uniform, and although a kind of incompatibility had been pointed out, yet the idea was daily ſubſiding, and in time would be done away—that as the country abounded in materials for ſhip building, it was evident that juſt and proper encouragement would ſoon produce an adequate ſupply—and if in conſequence of new regulations, temporary inconveniencies ſhould ariſe, they would ſoon ceaſe, for the high profits of any particular buſineſs ſoon reduced it to its proper level—that however, it was not owing entirely to the ſcarcity of American ſhipping, that foreigners had in a manner monopolized the carrying trade from the Southern States, but the preference they enjoyed might be traced to another cauſe, a very ruinous one in the iſſue, and that was, *the credit theſe foreigners gave*, by which means they obtained an exorbitant price for their ſupplies, and they freighted apparently low—yet the fact was otherwiſe: But to prevent the ſudden riſe of freight, and the conſequences apprehended, Mr. MADDISON propoſed, That a given time ſhould elapſe, previous to the commencement of a high duty, though a decided diſcrimination ſhould immediately take place—the gentleman mentioned January 1, 1791.

Mr. SMITH, of South Carolina, obſerved, That the intereſt of the Southern and Eaſtern States were different, he conceived, in the preſent caſe: That ſo far from laying reſtrictions upon the exportation of the Southern produce, by a heavy tonnage, it was more neceſſary to give a bounty to encourage that exportation. South Carolina was now in a deplorable condition—her domeſtic debt is One Million—and ſhe owes to foreigners 100000 Sterl.—all which muſt be paid in ſpecie: This duty falls on the produce of the country, on the exportation of which their hopes were founded to pay theſe debts: The duty, he contended, was out of proportion, as it would affect the Southern States, by obliging them to pay a bounty to the Eaſtern and Northern, for which they could not receive any compenſation: More than half the produce of South-Carolina, is now carried off by the ſhips of Great-Britain—this duty muſt conſequently enhance the freight unduly, for notwithſtanding the ſhipping of all nations had acceſs to their ports, immenſe quantities of rice were now laying in the ſtores for want of ſhipping; this duty would further operate to the diſcouragement of foreigners and the diſadvantage of the Southern States, by preventing their ſhips from coming out on ſpeculation with cargoes, by which means ſupplies were obtained, and a rivalſhip among the freighters produced, which in ſome meaſure influenced the price in favor of the ſhippers. Mr. SMITH was willing a diſtinction ſhould be made, but not a large one, and as the article of tonnage had been urged againſt the adoption of the Conſtitution, it would recur to the wiſdom of the Houſe whether it would be juſt and politic, to confirm any of thoſe preconceived impreſſions againſt the Conſtitution.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6.

The bill for laying certain duties on Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, imported into the United States, was read, and referred to a Committee of the whole.

Mr. HEISTER preſented a petition from ARTHUR GRIER, of Pennſylvania, purporting, that by certain calculations, he had aſcertained the mode of obtaining the longitude at ſea, to a nearer degree of perfection than had before been diſcovered—praying the countenance of Congreſs, and that they would ſecure to him the excluſive right of uſing and vending his reſpective improvements.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, the bill, with amendments from the Senate, respecting the manner of taking certain oaths, was read, and the amendments adopted by the House

Mr. LAWRENCE introduced the application of the Legislature of New-York, of 5th February last, for calling a Convention to consider Amendments, which being read, was disposed of as the Application from Virginia, by being entered on the Journals, and the original placed on the Files in the Clerk's office.

The House resumed the subject of Tonnage, and after some further debate, the report of the Committee for laying 30 cents, pr. ton, on the vessels of powers with whom treaties had been formed, was adopted. The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 7.

Mr. SMITH, of South Carolina, from the Committee appointed to wait on the President, to know when it would be convenient for him to receive the Address of the House, reported, That they had accordingly waited on the President, and that he had been pleased to mention Friday as a day, that would be convenient to him, and he submitted it to the pleasure of the House to fix the place.

The House then resolved, that they would present their Address to the President on Friday, in the room adjoining the Representatives' Chamber.

On motion of Mr. BLAND, a Committee was appointed to confer with the Senate, on the proper mode of presenting bills, resolutions, and addresses to the President

The House then resumed the subject of Tonnage.

A motion was made by Mr. MADISON, to reduce the tonnage on foreign ships not in alliance with the United States, from 50 to 40 cents pr. ton, till the 1st of January, 1790, and then to be raised to 75 cents.

This motion produced some debate; and on the question to strike out the 50, in order to make way for Mr. Madison's motion, it was negatived—25 to 20.

A clause was then added to the report, which is intended to prevent any vessels from trading coastwise, except those which are wholly owned by citizens of the United States.

The report as amended was then agreed to by the House—and a committee was appointed to bring in a bill.

Adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 8.

Upon the report of a Committee in favor of appointing a Serjeant at Arms, and nominations being called for, Mr. AMES and Mr. THACHER made some observations in opposition to the measure—contending, that the officer was super-numerary, and the post a mere sinecure.

Mr. GERRY, from the Committee appointed to prepare a bill prescribing the mode of collecting the Revenue, introduced a temporary law, which was read, and a hundred copies ordered to be printed for the House.

Mr. SMITH, of South Carolina, at this moment came in, and informed the House, that The President was ready to receive their address. The House immediately arose, and following the Speaker, attended The President in the room adjoining, where the following Address was presented by the Speaker, in the name of the House.

The ADDRESS

Of the HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES, *to* GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT *of the* UNITED STATES.

SIR,

THE representatives of the people of the United States, present their congratulations on the event by which your fellow-citizens have attested the pre-eminence of your merit. You have long held the first place in their esteem—you have often received tokens of their affection—you now possess the only proof that remained of their gratitude for your services, of their reverence for your wisdom, and of their confidence in your virtues. You enjoy the highest, because, the truest honor, of being the first magistrate, by the unanimous choice of the freest people on the face of the earth.

We well know the anxieties with which you must have obeyed a summons, from the repose reserved for your declining years, into public scenes, of which you had taken your leave forever—But the obedience was due to the occasion. It is already applauded by the universal joy, which welcomes you to your station, and we cannot doubt that it will be rewarded with all the satisfaction, with which an ardent love for your fellow-citizens must review successful efforts to promote their happiness.

This anticipation is not justified merely by the past experience of your signal services. It is particularly suggested by the pious impressions under which you commence your administration, and the enlightened maxims by which you mean to conduct it. We feel with you the strongest obligations to adore the invisible hand which has led the American people through so many difficulties, to cherish a conscious responsibility for the destiny of republican liberty, and to seek the only sure means of preserving and recommending the precious deposit in a system of legislation, founded on the principles of an honest policy, and directed by the spirit of a diffusive patriotism.

The question arising out of the fifth article of the constitution, will receive all the attention demanded by its importance, and will, we trust, be decided under the influence of all the considerations to which you allude.

In forming the pecuniary provisions for the executive department, we shall not lose sight of a wish resulting from motives which give it a peculiar claim to our regard.—Your resolution in a moment critical to the liberties of your country, to renounce all personal emolument, was among the many presages of your patriotic services, which have been amply fulfilled, and your scrupulous adherence now to the law then imposed on yourself, cannot fail to demonstrate the purity, whilst it encreases the lustre of a character, which has so many titles to admiration.

Such are the sentiments which we have thought fit to address to you: They flow from our own hearts, and we verily believe, that among the millions we represent, there is not a virtuous citizen whose heart will disown them.

All that remains is, that we join in your fervent supplication for the blessings of Heaven on our country; and that we add our own for the choicest of those blessings on the most beloved of her citizens.

To which THE PRESIDENT *made the following REPLY.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR very affectionate Address, produces emotions, which I know not how to express: I feel that my past endeavors in the service of my country, are far overpaid by its goodness; and I fear much that my future ones may not fulfil your kind anticipation. All that I can promise is, that they will be invariably directed by an honest, and an ardent zeal. Of this resource my heart assures me. For all beyond, I rely on the wisdom and patriotism of those with whom I am to co-operate, and a continuance of the blessings of Heaven on our beloved country.

G. WASHINGTON.

After this, THE PRESIDENT retiring, the Members of the House returned to their seats.

A motion which was laid on the table the 4th inst. respecting a request to the President, that he would procure an estimate of exports and imports, entries and clearances from the several States in the Union, for twelve months previous to the fourth of March last, was taken up, and after sundry amendments, one of which was, appointing a Committee to attend to the business, the motion was adopted.

After this, the appointment of a Serjeant at Arms was taken into consideration again—and a vote for assigning a time to come to a choice obtained—Tuesday next being appointed.

The Order of the day was then called for, and the House went into a Committee of the whole, when the second reading of the Bill, ascertaining the rates of Impost, was attended to.

Dr. TUCKER proposed, That the duty on distilled spirits, Jamaica proof, should be reduced to 6 cents, pr. gallon—this brought on a debate which lasted till the House adjourned.

NEW-YORK, MAY 9.

OF COMMENCEMENT.

ON Wednesday the 6th inst. was held in *St. Paul's Church*, the annual COMMENCEMENT of COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

The Proceedings on this pleasing occasion, were introduced by Dr. JOHNSON, (the President) with prayers.

The Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, then performed the parts respectively assigned them, in the following order: Viz.

JAMES DUANE, delivered the *Salutatory Oration.*
MATTHEW MESIER, an Oration on *The Passions.*
PETER MESIER, on the *Rising Glory of America.*
JOHN BAMBRIDGE, on *Happiness.*
WILLIAM LUPTON, on the *Art of Printing.*
JOUN VAN NESS, on *Civilization.*
JOHN REMSON, on the *Progress of Government.*
HENRY IZARD, on *Eloquence.*
WILLIAM HURST, on *History.*

The Degree of *Bachelor of Arts*, was then conferred on the following young gentlemen, viz.

Messrs	JAMES DUANE,	JOHN VAN NESS,
	MATTHEW MESIER,	JOHN REMSEN,
	PETER MESIER,	HENRY IZARD,
	JOHN BAMBRIDGE,	WILLIM HURST, and
	WILLIAM LUPTON,	JOHN MASON.

The Degree of *Master of Arts*, on

PETER STEDIFORD,	ABRAHAM NUN,
PHILIP LIVINGSTON,	SAMUEL W. JOHNSON,
JOHN BASSET,	ROGER ALDEN.

The Degree of *Doctor of Divinity*, on the
Rev. ABRAHAM BEACH,
Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE,
Rev. WILLIAM LYNN,
Rev. JOHN D. GROSS,
} all of New-York.

The Rev. JEREMIAH LEAMING, of Connecticut, and
The Rev. JACOB R. HARDENBERGH, of New-Brunswick.

After which the *Valedictory Oration* was delivered by Mr. JOHN MASON.

The Performances were received with applause, by a numerous and respectable audience.

Doctor JOHNSON, the President, concluded the whole with an affectionate, pertinent, and elegant Address to the Graduates—and a fervent Prayer to the source of all Wisdom and Felicity, for their future prosperity and usefulness in life.

THE PRESIDENT—His Excellency the Vice-President—the Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States—the GOVERNOR and principal Officers of this Republic, honored by their presence, this highly useful and important literary Institution.

The late public commencement in this city, affords a conspicuous specimen of the progress of science, and the fine arts, as well as of moral and political researches. It is an happy presage to the future character and prosperity of this country, that its youth, when in pursuit of literary attainments, do not confine their attention to the dull paths of mere scholastick study, but acquire some general and useful ideas respecting commerce, policy and ethics. Under such regulations, may we not hope to be successively furnished with patriots and legislators, who will come forth into public life, endowed with such knowledge, and guarded with such principles, as will render them both the ornament and safeguard of our rising republic? Men participating of such qualities will be equally remote from wishing a government of bigotry and despotism, as of licentiousness and anarchy.

The spectators who hear the debates of our national representatives, are unanimous in their applauses of the candor and impartiality which appear in the deliberations. If the measures adopted should fail of giving complete satisfaction to the virtuous citizens of this nation, it will be no argument that the legislature are not influenced by the strictest integrity, and the purest patriotism. It will only be an evidence, that the task to be accomplished, was surrounded with such various and complicated difficulties, in the adoption of plans, and had to combat such diversity of views and feelings throughout the country where they were to operate, that it would be no less remarkable in the first instance to strike upon expedients absolutely the best, than to gain the entire approbation of all classes of men, over this wide extended country. We persuade ourselves however, that wise measures will be pursued, and a very general acquiescence in them will prevail among our enlightened countrymen. They will no doubt recollect, that future legislatures may amend what is found ineligible, and correct any unequal operation, that the laws may be supposed to produce in different parts of the Union: For it is no less requisite, that a spirit of accommodation and justice should characterise the bulk of the citizens, than that it should govern those who have the management of public affairs.

On Thursday evening, the subscribers of the Dancing Assembly, gave an elegant BALL and ENTERTAINMENT. THE PRESIDENT of the United States, was pleased to honor the company with his presence—His Excellency the Vice President—most of the members of both Houses of Congress—His Excellency the Governor, and a great many other dignified public characters: His Excellency Count de MOUSTIER—His Most Christian Majesty's Ambassador—The Baron Steuben, and other foreigners of distinction, were present: There was a numerous and brilliant collection of ladies, dressed with consummate taste and elegance. The number of persons present, was upwards of three hundred, and satisfaction, vivacity and delight, beamed from every countenance.

Yesterday, THE PRESIDENT received visits of compliment at his house.

We are informed, that THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE, *and many other* PERSONAGES *of the greatest* DISTINCTION, will be at the THEATRE, on Monday night next.

A correspondent remarks, that it is doubtless very improper, to give the *Title* of *Excellency* to THE PRESIDENT: because it places him, in his official capacity, upon a level with some public officers, especially in the *diplomatic line*, who are to receive their commissions from him.

ELOGIUM.

DR. FRANKLIN has had the happiness of living to see science extended under his fostering hand, from one end of Pennsylvania to the other. What hath he not done in the cause of literature and freedom? Was he not a principal agent in the foundation of the first public school of any note in the State? Was he not the principal agent in the foundation of the first library in Philadelphia? What seminary hath not partook of his bounty? Hath he not after a constant exercise of his extraordinary abilities, at the very eve of life, exhibited a striking proof of the consequences of good habits, in taking by the hand an infant academy at Washington, the very extremity of the State? Did he not some time ago endow it with fifty pounds? Hath he not within a few days past directed Mr. Redick, one of the trustees of that school, to receive from the State the whole amount of his account for postages during the three years of his presidency, and which amounted to a very considerable sum? Yes, all these things he hath done. But to all these things and as much more as would fill a volume of such things, would be but the dust of the balance to what this great, this good, this ornament to human nature, hath done for man.

Thursday arrived the ship George from Glasgow. Papers brought by this vessel, give the following intelligence, viz.

March 10, The Lords Commissioners addressed both Houses of the British Parliament in a speech, by orders from the King.

At the Cabinet Council, in which this speech was considered, the King presided.

After the Council broke up, the King took an excursion for two hours on horse back.

The standard was hoisted and the guns fired at the tower, and the city illuminated on account of the King's recovery.

His Majesty's first public appearance, will be at St. Paul's Church, to offer his thanks to the power, that has restored him.

Mr. Pitt has been compared to a cocoa-nut, which has a rough out side, but much milk at the heart.

Great convulsions in Ireland, on account of the Lord Lieutenant's not forwarding the address of the Irish Parliament to the Prince of Wales.

Several thousand medals, it is said, have been struck off by the opposition—the Prince on one side, and a Crown on the other—their disappointment on the King's recovery, and consequent chagrin prevents any remarks on the indecency of their conduct.

THE TABLET.

NUMBER VIII.

"Truth will ever be unpalatable to those, who determine not to relinquish error."

TO deceive fools, and flatter knaves, is a line of conduct, that the art or the indolence of men may induce them to adopt. A crafty man may conceal the truth from sinister views; an indolent man may impose on himself as well as others, because he does not wish the trouble of knowing or communicating the truth. There are various pretexts and various forms, under which a professed politician pursues his object; while his real motive of action is generally kept out of sight. But I know of no pretence, that is more commonly or more plausibly urged by designing men, than that they desire to act agreeably to the *voice of the people*. It has been acknowleged, that to oppose the public opinion, when *right*, is imprudent; but it has also been asserted, that to cherish it, when *wrong*, is dishonest. To ascertain the public opinion, should be the first aim of a legislator; to coincide with it, as far as it is well grounded, is good policy; but to reform old abuses and to introduce new subjects for public reflection, is a still greater duty and a conspicuous honor.

It is often asked by sensible and honest men, whether government should controul the public opinion, or be controuled by it? The truth is, they have a reciprocal influence upon each other. Many people will say, that the formation of the new Constitution was directed, in some degree, by public opinion: This position can hardly be admitted. It is well known, that while the general Convention were in session, scarce any person ventured to predict, what would be the result of their deliberations. I mention this circumstance, to prove that there was no definite public opinion, relative to that object.—When the proceedings of the Convention were published, they were rather unexpected by the public mind, than contrary to it. There was no general sentiment pre-conceived in the matter. The weight of characters, who composed the Convention; the peculiar situation of the country, and several other causes, have rendered the new Constitution generally acceptable. But upon the supposition, that each article of it had been previously recommended by town meetings, and that it was, literally speaking, framed by the voice of the people, it would be no sufficient reason that its administration should not act with wisdom and honesty; and strive to promote the prosperity, rather than confirm the prejudices of the community.

The government of every country; when once in operation, should produce a re-action upon the public opinion. It should search for it, estimate it, trace its origin, examine its effects, endeavor to remove its errors; but what is of more importance, it should collect the scattered sentiments of the public and form them into proper shapes; and in some instances create opinions and attachments wholly anew. I do not barely confine my remarks of the re-action of government upon the public mind, to its speculative principles, but would extend my idea to a controul over the prejudices, the habits and the manners of the people.

Men are or may be, very much what the government pleases to make them. There is no fatality in the case, why people cannot be made honest, industrious and pacific; as well as turbulent, slothful and knavish. These different qualities may discover themselves, without presupposing any change or improvement in the heart. They may be the result of good political regulations. We often observe a man in some instances just and honorable; while in other respects, his conduct deserves a reverse character. The same causes, which made him *partially* virtuous, had they been extended, would have made him *wholly* so. Whenever we see a profligate man, we must conclude, either, that he was educated in a wrong manner by his parents and guardians, or that there was something wrong in the government, under which he lived. A man is not doomed, by natural necessity, to be a *knave*, any more than he is to be a *conjurer*. He may be taught *both*, or he may be restrained from becoming *either*. We must therefore conclude that a government falls short of perfection, in proportion as its citizens are deficient in the display of amiable and useful qualities. The task of a legislator, how much so ever he may have accomplished, is never finished, while his institutions have failed of producing a pretty perfect state of society. This will not be practicable perhaps in a full degree, but with proper attempts, considerable improvements will not be found inattainable.

The visionary projects of the ancient philosophers, who supposed they could subdue the passions of men, and render them subservient to reason, have beguiled many into a belief, that men always *must be*, just as they have *been*. The passions of men, it is true, can never be extinguished; but they may be diverted from objects that are hurtful to those that are beneficial. No passion of the human mind is unessential to the well being of society; and that any one is dangerous, is only because it is not properly managed. Nature furnishes passions, but it is education and government that turn them to this or that particular object. The common remark that legislators must *take* mankind as they find them, does not make it excuseable that they should *leave* men, as they find them.

From the MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE.

On CHESTERFIELD's LETTERS.

IF judgment, wit, and knowledge of mankind;
A polish'd style, and manners most refin'd,
Can make a letter, or a man complete,
All these in Chesterfield united meet:
But if an upright heart, religious truth,
Morals and honor, form the perfect youth,
From purer lights catch thou the guiding ray,
And spurn the courtier, and his book away.

MANUFACTURES.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Scotland, to his Friend in Philadelphia, dated 3d Nov. 1788.

"WE have got a mill to go by water, for spinning flax and hemp; and I am informed, that a mechanic here, has just invented a *Jeanie* or hand-mill, that will spin flax or hemp: It can be made of any number of heads or spindles, from forty to one hundred: A woman and girl will be able to spin twenty spinell of yarn on it, every week. Mills to go by water, have also been erected at Glasgow, Derby, Nottingham, &c. for spinning long-wool, commonly called *combed-wool*. The cotton-mills, with a little alteration spin short or uncombed wool. Mills have lately been erected in England for grinding wheat, corn, &c. where little or no water can be had, to go by steam engines: there is one of those mills, worked by steam engines, that drives thirty-two mill stones. These improvements, would certainly be very beneficial in a country thinly peopled, and where wages are high. Models of all new and useful improvements in *husbandry*, if kept at some town in a central part of the State, where all might have access to see them, might tend to accelerate improvement in the cultivation of the ground; this certainly ought to be done at the expense of the State. *Brewing of malt liquors*, will, I think, be providing the best market for your *farmers*; and *protecting duties*, on all articles imported from other countries will enable your *manufacturers* to proceed, with vigor, spirit and success: There cannot be a more certain way of giving encouragement to *agriculture*, than by providing, a sure, constant and steady market, for the produce of the earth: And undoubtedly *manufactures at home*, in this view, are a more sure and steady market than any *foreign* nation, who may cut of your market with them all at once. It behoves you, therefore, to ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURES; and the government ought, certainly, to lay on heavy duties, and to give *bounties* upon your home manufactures: But I hope your *new* government will rectify all these things."

NATIONAL MONITOR.

NUMBER III.

"Common consent, gives currency to many errors."

IT has been observed, that a proper sense of the importance of government, diffused generally among the people, would prove a most powerful principle to perpetuate their freedom and happiness.

The more this idea is revolved in the mind, the stronger will be the impression of its truth; and the more extensive its application to the circumstances of human nature, the greater will be the conviction of its competency to produce the most salutary effects upon society.

It is a given principle, that the first step towards the acquisition of any object, is a feeling sense *of its being* necessary *to our happiness: Government has been too long considered as the harbinger of human weakness, and depravity, rather than the result of the best and most exalted reasoning. Hence it is reflected upon, as* "a necessary evil," *when in fact, it is part of the divine economy in the plan of human nature.—"Order is Heaven's first law."—A deviation from this Economy, produces the great complaint of evils in the system of morals and of humanity.—Government then is of divine origin—the divine government is absolute—is perfect; and for this reason—because it is founded in infinite wisdom, and all its operations are perfectly wise, just and good: And for this reason also, human governments never should be absolute; because the imperfections of our natures render it impossible, that a perfect government should ever be founded and administered by imperfect beings.*

From this idea has mankind been inspired to devise a balance in Government, or mutual checks; by which in a gradual way, such a degree of perfection may be attained in legislation, and that security in society, for which government was originally intended by Heaven. These observations may serve in some degree to impress the necessity and importance of government upon our minds—in our next, its competency to its design, will be attended to.

C.

PLAN

OF THE

GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

A NATIONAL PAPER.

To be published at the SEAT *of the* FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, *and to comprise, as fully as possible, the following Objects, viz.*

I. EARLY and authentick Accounts of the PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS—its LAWS, ACTS, and RESOLUTIONS communicated so as to form an *HISTORY of the TRANSACTIONS of the FEDERAL LEGISLATURE, under the NEW CONSTITUTION.*

II. IMPARTIAL SKETCHES of the DEBATES of CONGRESS.

III. ESSAYS upon the great subjects of Government in general, and the *Federal Legislature in particular*; also upon the *national* and *local* Rights of the AMERICAN CITIZENS, as founded upon the Federal or State Constitutions; also upon every other Subject, which may appear suitable for newspaper discussion.

IV. A SERIES of PARAGRAPHS, calculated to catch the "LIVING MANNERS AS THEY RISE," and to point the publick attention to Objects that have an important reference to *domestick, social*, and *publick happiness*.

V. The Interests of the United States as connected with their literary Institutions—religious and moral Objects—Improvements in Science, Arts, EDUCATION and HUMANITY—their foreign Treaties, Alliances, Connections, &c.

VI. Every *species* of INTELLIGENCE, which may affect the *commercial, agricultural, manufacturing*, or *political* INTERESTS of the AMERICAN REPUBLICK.

VII. A CHAIN of DOMESTICK OCCURRENCES, collected through the Medium of an extensive Correspondence with the respective States.

VIII. A SERIES of FOREIGN ARTICLES of INTELLIGENCE, so connected, *as to form a general Idea of publick Affairs in the eastern Hemisphere.*

IX. The STATE of the NATIONAL FUNDS; also of the INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS—Courses of Exchange—Prices Current, &c.

CONDITIONS.

I.

THE GAZETTE *of the* UNITED STATES *shall be printed with the same* Letter, *and on the same* Paper *as this publication.*

II.

It shall be published every WEDNESDAY *and* SATURDAY, *and delivered, as may be directed, to every Subscriber in the city, on those days.*

III.

The price to Subscribers (exclusive of postage) *will be* THREE DOLLARS *pr. annum.*

IV.

The first semi-annual payment to be made in three months *from the appearance of the first number.*

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Will be received in all the capital towns upon the Continent; also at the City-Coffee-House, *at* No. 86, William-Street, *and at the* Printing-Office, No. 9, Maiden-Lane, *near the* Oswego-Market, New-York.

N. B. By a new Arrangement made in the Stages, Subscribers at a distance will be duly furnished with papers.

POSTSCRIPT.—*A large impression of every number will be struck off—so that Subscribers may always be accommodated with complete Sets.*

To the PUBLICK.

AT this important Crisis, the ideas that fill the mind, are pregnant with Events of the greatest magnitude—to strengthen and complete the UNION of the States—to extend and protect their COMMERCE, under *equal* Treaties yet to be formed—to explore and arrange the NATIONAL FUNDS—to restore and establish the PUBLICK CREDIT—and *ALL* under the auspices of an untried System of Government, will require the ENERGIES of the Patriots and Sages of our Country—*Hence the propriety of encreasing the Mediums of Knowledge and Information.*

AMERICA, from this period, begins a new Era in her national existence—"THE WORLD IS ALL BEFORE HER"—The wisdom and folly—the misery and prosperity of the EMPIRES, STATES, and KINGDOMS, which have had their day upon the great Theatre of Time, and are now no more, suggest the most important Mementos—These, with the rapid series of Events, in which our own Country has been so deeply interested, have taught the enlightened Citizens of the United States, that FREEDOM and GOVERNMENT—LIBERTY and LAWS, are inseparable.

This Conviction has led to the adoption of the New Constitution; for however VARIOUS the Sentiments, respecting the MERITS of this System, all GOOD MEN are agreed in the necessity that exists, of an EFFICIENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

A paper, therefore, established upon NATIONAL, INDEPENDENT, and IMPARTIAL PRINCIPLES—which shall take up the premised Articles, upon a COMPETENT PLAN, it is presumed, will be highly interesting, and meet with publick approbation and patronage.

The Editor of this Publication is determined to leave no avenue of Information unexplored:—He solicits the assistance of Persons of leisure and abilities—which, united with his own assiduity, he flatters himself will render the Gazette of the United States not unworthy general encouragement—and is, with due respect, the publick's humble servant,

JOHN FENNO.

New-York, April 15, 1789.

TWO YOUNG SPRIGHTLY LADS

ARE wanted, as APPRENTICES to the Business of Printing.

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